

## ❖ Provide Input

This is the first in a series of newsletters to keep the community updated on the redevelopment study. To provide input on the project or to be added to the email or postal mailing list please contact:

### Public Comment

bgt.comments@metrokc.gov

## ❖ Stay Informed

### Burke-Gilman Trail Conceptual Design Plan

Leslie McLean  
(206) 296-0968  
leslie.mclean@metrokc.gov

### King County Trail Questions

Tom Eksten  
(206) 263-6206  
tom.eksten@metrokc.gov

### King County Parks Questions

Kathy Nygard  
(206) 296-8687

### King County Parks Maintenance

Hank Bradberry  
(206) 296-2974

### Trail Safety Emergency

King County Sheriff  
911

### Trail Safety Non- Emergency

King County Sheriff  
(206) 296-3311

# Burke-Gilman Trail

REDEVELOPMENT STUDY

**SPRING 2004**

## Regional Vision

King County has one of the largest trail systems in the United States. This immensely popular system is used by walkers, runners, bicyclists, equestrians and others every day for recreation and as an alternate way of getting around. The King County Regional Trail System encompasses nearly 175 miles of multi-purpose trails, with more than 300 miles planned for expansion. Our regional trails comprise a major element of King County's open space system and connect urban areas with parks, rural valleys, mountains and communities. The popularity of these trails continues to grow. For example, nearly two million people enjoy the Burke-Gilman/Sammamish River trail system every year.

## Addressing Local Concerns

King County is at work on a plan to improve conditions and safety on a segment of the Burke-Gilman Trail extending from NE 145th Street, through the City of Lake Forest Park and on to Tracy Owen Station, just inside the City of Kenmore. Collaborating with neighborhood residents, the bicycling community, trail users, and the cities of Lake Forest Park and Kenmore continues to be an important part of this effort.

The project team will prepare a draft Concept Design Plan for redevelopment of the trail. Some of the first steps include:

- A site assessment that identifies existing conditions on the trail along with opportunities and constraints to potential trail widening in the future
- Involvement of residents who live along the trail and within the community
- Research on trail conditions
- Careful review of public comment
- Mapping and aerial photography of the entire project area
- Traffic and signage analysis
- Review of drainage and wetland issues
- Analysis of title and survey information on the trail right-of-way

The Concept Design Plan is the first step in preparing a design for trail redevelopment. King County expects to present the results of the Redevelopment Study—the draft Concept Design Plan—to the public by Fall 2004. Notification of the next public meeting will be provided in advance, and in the meantime, e-mail updates and newsletters will keep people informed. Public comment gathered will be reviewed and considered in the final Concept Design Plan. King County will then embark upon the schematic design phase, which when completed, will provide a more detailed design plan and further opportunities for public involvement before the construction design phase begins.

*Look inside for more details...*

### Burke-Gilman Trail Redevelopment Study Attn: Leslie McLean

Facilities Management Division (FMD)  
King County Administration Building, Room 320  
500 Fourth Avenue  
Seattle, WA 98104

Presorted  
Standard  
US Postage  
**PAID**  
Seattle, WA  
Permit No. 6013

# Well-traveled Trail

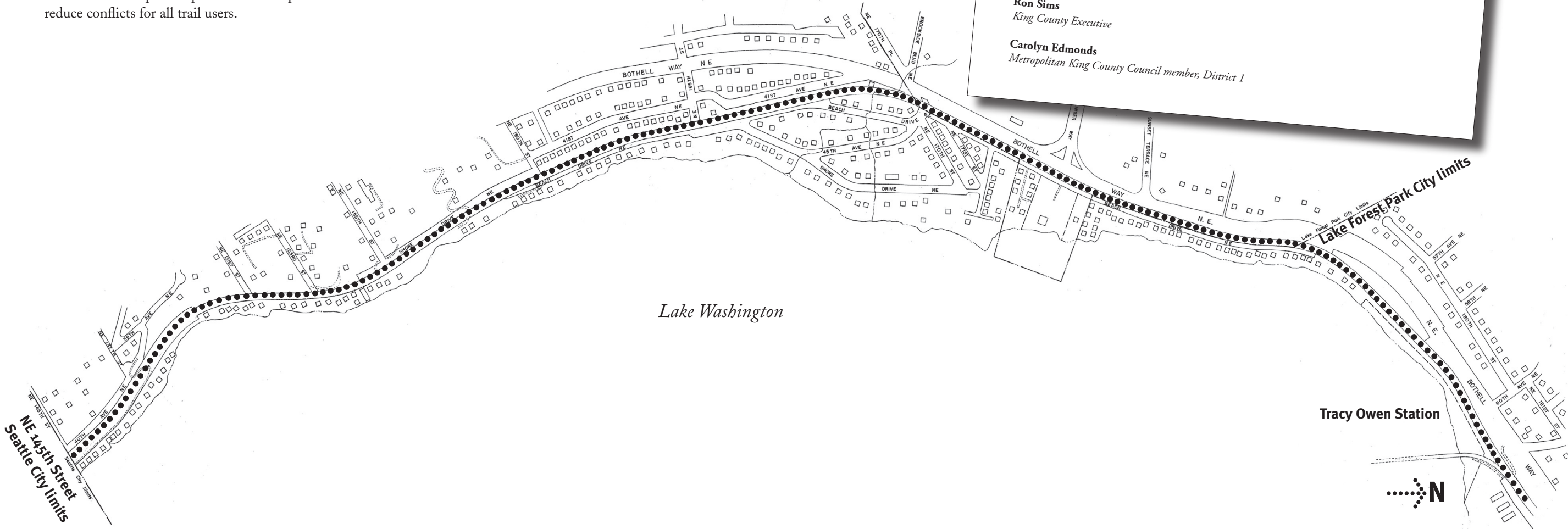
In the mid-1970's, the Burke-Gilman was one of the first shared-use trails in the nation. At 10-feet wide, it was built to exceed the national recommended width of 8 feet. Just 15 years later, the trail was reaching capacity. A 1985 survey confirmed that there were over 2,000 users per day on a peak day. By 1990, surveys revealed the Burke-Gilman and Sammamish River Trails were reaching close to 3,000 users on a peak day.

The most consistent and common complaint to King County in regard to use of the Burke-Gilman Trail has been one of user conflict. As the trail's popularity has grown over the years, the more the County's surveys show this complaint arising. To address this complaint, deal with potential safety issues, and upgrade this nearly 30 year-old facility – a shared use path – King County has turned to guidelines nationally recognized as the standard for dealing with these issues on this type of facility. These national standards tell us that we should be looking at a wider shared use path to provide better separation and to reduce conflicts for all trail users.

## Considering the Issues

The project team is working to ensure the trail design meets current national shared-use trail standards for functionality, safety, and accessibility. Some of the many issues to be considered include:

- Trail width
- Trail alignment
- Trail shoulders
- Pavement markings and signage
- Drainage
- Utility and vegetation conflicts
- Street and private drive conflicts
- Sight distance
- Encroachments affecting trail safety
- Trail amenities



**KING COUNTY**

King County Executive  
Ron Sims

Metropolitan King County Council  
Carolyn Edmonds



Dear King County Resident,

As our region grows and changes, the importance of our Regional Trails System also grows and changes with it. Our trails continue to provide our citizens opportunities for recreation and enjoyment of our area's natural beauty. Regional trails comprise a major element of King County's open space system. Trails connect urban areas with our parks, rural land and other communities. The 17-mile Burke-Gilman Trail is an essential link in this system.

The two mile portion of the Burke-Gilman Trail running through the City of Lake Forest Park has grown increasingly popular over the years. This section is also the oldest segment of the trail, built almost 30 years ago. Increased trail use and age has created trail maintenance and safety issues. These need to be solved.

King County is currently coordinating a response to identified trail needs by preparing a Burke-Gilman Trail Redevelopment Study. The study will look at existing and future needs. The study will include a conceptual design plan that recommends potential improvements to the trail to safely accommodate its many uses. As we seek to enhance the trail, it will be important to balance the needs of local residents with those of trail users and businesses along the trail. Sensitivity to the concerns and needs of all trail stakeholders-residents, the City of Lake Forest Park, businesses along the route, trail users and others-will be critical to the success of any future development.

We thank those of you who have already participated through your comments and attendance at public meetings. There will continue to be opportunities for all stakeholders to express their opinions. We hope that all of you will join us in considering the complex issues associated with trail redesign. We welcome your participation in the Burke-Gilman redesign decision-making process and look forward to hearing your ideas.

Sincerely,

**Ron Sims**  
King County Executive

**Carolyn Edmonds**  
Metropolitan King County Council member, District 1